

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

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INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 RSR-01

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R 090722Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7846

USLO PEKING

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 7979

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, US, TW

SUBJECT: TRAVELS OF PHYSICIST YANG CHEN-NING

REF: (A) PEKING 0736; (B) HONG KONG 7569

SUMMARY. YANG CHEN-NING INTERRUPTED HIS PRC VISIT TO ATTEND A THREE-DAY SCIENTIFIC MEETING IN TOKYO IN JULY. YANG'S FUTURE PLANS ABOUT WORKING IN PRC ARE NOT KNOWN BUT THIS APPEARS TO BE A DEFINITE POSSIBILITY. STATEMENTS BY YANG AND HIS WIFE PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR U.S. STRESSED THAT SCIENCE IS WELL REGARDED IN PRC AND PROMOTED THE THEME OF TAIWAN'S PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION WITH THE MAINLAND. END SUMMARY

1. HONG KONG PRESS CARRIED NO REPORT OF YANG'S INITIAL TRAVEL FROM PRC TO JAPAN AROUND JULY 22. HOWEVER VARIOUS HONG KONG ENGLISH AND CHINESE PRESS CARRIED PARTS OF YOMIURI SHIMBUN JULY 26 INTERVIEW ABOUT YANG'S PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS HELD IN TOKYO JULY 23-27 (REF B). IN JULY 27 INTERVIEW
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IN HONG KONG WITH PRC-OWNED WEN WEI PAO EN ROUTE YANG'S RETURN

FROM TOKYO TO PRC, YANG MENTIONED MEETING WITH A PRC DELEGATE AT TOKYO SCIENTIFIC MEETING AND WEN WEI PAO JULY 29 REFERRED TO YANG HAVING GONE FROM PEKING TO TOKYO "EARLY LAST WEEK" VIA HONG KONG (TRANSLATION POUCHED JULY 31). INTERVIEW ALSO MENTIONS YANG HAD INITIALLY ARRIVED PEKING JULY 12 TO VISIT RELATIVES.

2. ON AUGUST 7 BOTH YANG AND WIFE EXITED PRC BUT AVOIDED CONTACTS WITH HONG KONG PRESS (HONG KONG 7925). CHINESE AND ENGLISH PRESS ON AUGUST 9 REPORTED THAT DR. AND MRS. YANG HAD DEPARTED HONG KONG FOR NEW YORK AUGUST 8, EVENING. HONG KONG STANDARD QUOTED YANG ON DEPARTURE AS SAYING CHAIRMAN MAO HAD SHOWN GREAT INTEREST IN AND KNOWLEDGE OF MODERN SCIENCE. YANG SAID COMPARED WITH U.S. THAT RESEARCH IN PRC WAS MORE PRACTICAL THAN THEORETICAL BECAUSE IN DEVELOPING PRC INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE NUMEROUS PRACTICAL PROBLEMS REMAIN TO BE SOLVED AND THAT THEORETICAL WORK HAD TO BE PUT ASIDE. YANG ADDED " BUT IT WOULD BE WRONG TO SAY THAT THEORETICAL WORK WAS BEING NEGLECTED IN PRC AS LEADERS AND SCIENTISTS HAVE ALWAYS DISCUSSED HOW MUCH THEORETICAL WORK SHOULD BE DONE." PRC-OWNED PRESS REPORTED YANG AT SEVERAL POINTS EMPHASIZED EXCELLENT HEALTH OF CHAIRMAN MAO AND PREMIER CHOU.

3. MRS. YANG, REFERRING TO COMFORTABLE STATUS OF HER FATHER, FORMER KMT GENERAL TU YU-MING, SPOKE ALSO OF WEL BEING OF TU'S OLD FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES IN CHINA. SHE DESCRIBED HER FIRST VIST TO PRC IN 26 YEARS AS " MOST IMPRESSIVE" AND SAID " I FEEL THAT PEACEFUL UNIFICATION OF TAIWAN AND THE MAINLAND IS INEVITABLE. I PERSONALLY THINK IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL FOR NATIONALIST LEADERS AND TAIWAN COMPATRIOTS TO VISIT CHINA." SHE ADDED THAT ON RETURN TO U.S. SHE MAY MAKE STRONGER APPEALS TO TAIWAN LEADERS WHO HAVE MAINTAINED CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH HER FAMILY. NEITHER ENGLISH LANGUAGE NOR PRC OWNED PRESS AUGUST 9 REPORTED ANY INFO RE POSSIBILITY OF YANG'S RETURNING TO WORK IN PRC, AS WAS MENTIONED IN EARLIER YOMIURI INTERVIEW. HOWEVER, LEFTIST HONG KONG COMMERCIAL DAILY AUGUST 9 REPORTED THAT IN TV DEPARTURE INTERVIEW, YANG HAD SAID THAT HE INTENDED IN FUTURE TO STAY IN CHINA FOR A YEAR TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH WORK. HE ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID HE DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A PERMANENT CONFIDENTIAL

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STAY IN CHINA.

4. COMMENT. THAT YANG INTERRUPTED HIS PRC VISIT TO TRAVEL FROM PEKING TO TOKYO AND BACK AGAIN ONLY TO STAY ANOTHER NINE DAYS IN CHINA SUGGESTS THAT HE HAD SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS THERE. THIS ALL THE MORE SO SINCE HE WAS IN PRC ONLY LAST MAY FOR FUNERAL OF FATHER. YANG'S TRAVEL PATTERN PLUS HIS REMARKS AS REPORTED IN YOMIURI AND COMMERCIAL DAILY THUS LEND CREDENCE TO REPORT OF

NEGOTIATIONS FOR YANG'S SERVICES HAVING BEEN OPENED RECENTLY
(HONG KONG 7925).
DEAN

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